

RETIREE



BULLETIN

BAY AREA RETIREE CHAPTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

Local #79 ♦ 5818 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. ♦ Tampa, Florida 33619
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MEETINGS 1st WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 a.m. ♦ FEB - APR - JUNE - AUG - OCT - DEC
April, 2018



MEETING NOTICE

The next retiree's General Membership meeting will be held on April 4, 2018 at the Teamsters Local 79, 5818 E. MLK Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619. The business meeting will begin about 10:00 a.m. and after the business meeting we will have a covered dish luncheon. Bring your spouse or guest and a covered dish and enjoy yourself with your Brothers and Sisters Teamster Retirees.

Wondering what to do about a covered dish of good food? If you or your spouse are not in the mood to cook anything to bring, no problem. Stop at a deli on the way and get something to bring or bring a dessert of some kind. The important thing is to come to the meeting, you may learn about a new labor law, a new way to mess up our Social Security or Medicare or our pension. We try to stay on top of the situation all the time, so come on down.

LOCAL 79'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are always trying to think of ways to raise money for the Scholarship Fund because some day it may be one of your children, grandchildren, or even great grandchildren that needs one. We have the 50/50 drawing at every meeting and 50% of the money in the pot goes to the Fund, unless you decide to donate your

half also. That's your decision to make. The other fundraising item we do on a regular basis is collect aluminum cans. When you come to the union hall for a meeting, you will see two cans marked for aluminum cans only. If you have a Coca Cola or another drink, deposit your empty can in one of those special cans. Or better yet, save your cans at home and bring them with you to the next meeting. We may not make a lot of money for the Fund this way but a little is always better than nothing.

CHILDREN'S HOME

We have not given up on the Children's Home project. The kids must be clothed and fed so they can possibly become future college students, or possibly Teamsters, and become even more special. Please bring some food, non-perishable foods with you to the April meeting. Can goods, cereals, pasta and other items to feed these young people. Large sizes of each are good or whatever you can get or afford. Be a good Teamster and help others less fortunate than we are.

IMPORTANT PENSION INFO

On page 2 in this newsletter is information you don't want to miss about the pension crisis.

Brian Rothman, President and Business Manager of Teamsters Local 79, will Hold an Important Meeting with the National United Committee to Protect Pensions Local 79 Union Hall, 5818 E MLK Boulevard, Tampa, Florida Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 a.m.

One purpose of this meeting is for Sherman Liimatainen, Vice President of the National United Committee to Protect Pensions, to update you on the progress being made on the multi-employer pension crisis.

As many of you know, there is now a Congressional Joint Select Committee in Washington, D.C. charged with finding a solution to the pension crisis. There are eight Democrats and eight Republicans from the House and Senate on the committee. We have this legislative body all to ourselves. This is a positive move in the right direction.

Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) is on the Joint Select Committee. His District 16 is the next district south of Tampa. Congressman Buchanan is the second, and most important, purpose of this meeting.

This meeting will be held while Congress is out of session and Rep. Buchanan will most likely be at work in his District.

We're in the process of trying to get Representative Buchanan to attend the meeting. There's no guarantee our invitation will be accepted, but in case he will be at the meeting, we need to be prepared.

We need to bring retirees and actives together at this meeting to advocate for Congressman Buchanan's support for the Butch Lewis Act to be the solution the Joint Select Committee chooses.

If passed, the Butch Lewis Act would mean zero cuts to all pension participants, and it would protect employers from high withdrawal penalties. This is why we believe the Butch Lewis Act is the best solution for employers, actives and retirees.

We need to get that message across to Representative Buchanan.

What we need to do is fill up the union hall with retirees and actives from all nearby districts, including district 16.

As you know, Representatives are most interested in hearing from people in their districts.

If you're from District 16, and can make it to this meeting, please contact us at the phone number at the end of this notice as soon as possible. We'd like to go over some important details with you.

To find out which district you're in, go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> or ask someone with internet to do it for you.

Please understand, we want District 16 people to attend whether you're able to testify or not. The presence of people from District 16 is important to the success of this meeting.

We also want to emphasize that we need everyone to attend, not just people from District 16. We need to make a good showing of all people who will be affected by the decision of the Joint Select Committee.

If you're willing to share your pension story for just a few minutes at the meeting, please contact us as soon as possible. We need to hear from you.

Veterans will also make for excellent testimonials. Please contact us if you're willing to speak for a few minutes at the meeting.

Please invite actives and retirees you know. Let them know the Butch Lewis Act will protect them from pension cuts and will protect employers from high withdrawal liabilities.

Regardless of our ability to get Representative Buchanan to attend, your time won't be wasted if you're at the meeting. You'll learn more about the progress being made on the pension crisis.

The meeting will also be good for organizing efforts to get your message across to Representative Buchanan in his local offices, as well as to your other representatives in Congress.

Here's a little about the National United Committee to Protect Pensions.

NUCPP's sole mission is to protect all multiemployer pension funds, and has committees in twenty-six states working to protect pensions.

Collectively, NUCPP's leaders and members have been fighting the pension crisis for at least four years.

With the activism of its members, NUCPP has had success in preventing over 200,000 retirees in Central States Pension Fund from having their pensions slashed under MPRA.

NUCPP was instrumental in having Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduce the Butch Lewis Act in the Senate.

The organization was also responsible for having the Act named for Butch Lewis, a CSPF retiree and pension protection leader, who passed away from the stress of fighting for our pensions.

NUCPP has joined forces with IBT. IBT wrote the rescue plan that's the basis of the Butch Lewis Act. IBT spends thousands of dollars daily to work toward a solution to the pension crisis, without any cuts to participants or withdrawal penalties by employers.

We urge all who will be affected by the decision of the Joint Select Committee to attend this meeting.

Soda, bottled water, truckers coffee and donuts will be provided.

Contact info: Gail Kraker 904-471-1913

MORE ON PENSION CRISIS

A lot of people have been working hard to help save our pensions, however, they cannot do it all. They need our help to accomplish what we are after, the pension we were promised after working the years required.

The meeting on March 31st, at 10:00 a.m., is the first step, one you should not miss.

Years ago, one of Local 79's past Presidents said about me, "Bob Meeks is like a pit bull, when he latches on to something that he thinks is right he will not let go."

I took that as a compliment then and still do, but, as years have gone by and I have grown older, it's harder to hold on without help. The retirees that took the bus trip to Washington, D.C. with me know how I am. We were there then fighting the new law they passed that gave the pension funds the right to cut or pensions we had worked for.

We can do this. The emphasis is on the "we". We are Teamsters, past, present and future, and we do not back down.

Come to the meeting on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Local 79's Union Hall.

What else can you do?

Tell anyone you know that is retired under a multi-employer pension plan like Central States to come with you and learn what they can do.

If you know anyone that is currently working under such a plan, urge them to come also.

On March 17, at 9:00 a.m., the Local Union is holding their General Membership meeting at the hall and Jim Mason, a retiree member of our retirees club will give a short presentation of what is happening in Washington. He has been there off and on for weeks.

LABOR NEWS

In December, 2017, the National Labor Relations Board that has been loaded up with extremely anti-union members by President Trump, reversed a controversial Obama-era "joint employer" decision empowering workers to pursue claims against, or seek collective bargaining with, major corporations that don't sign their paychecks, such as franchisors or clients of contractors.

The vote overturning the 2015 case included support from Trump appointed William Emanuel, whose former law firm had represented one of the companies in the original case, Browning-Ferris. Well, well, lo and behold, on February 9, NLRB Inspector General David Berry said Emanuel should not have cast a vote due to a conflict of interest. The NLRB had to vacate the pro-corporate ruling.

I am glad somebody in Washington has their eyes of the foxes guarding hen house.

Watch out unions, here they come! The conservative majority of the Supreme Court looks poised to deliver a historic blow to labor unions after hearing oral arguments in the Janus vs American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees case on Monday, March 5. Have not heard a decision yet but an expected 5-4 decision would prevent public sector employee unions across the country from mandating agency fees from members and would be a crowning achievement for a conservative movement founded on opposition to organized labor.

Unions are going to have a rough and rocky road to travel for a few years.

MORE LABOR NEWS

**Oh, we can investigate ourselves?
On Tuesday, March 6, the Department of Labor (DOL) announced a new pilot program that will allow business owners to report themselves for potentially violating overtime and minimum wage laws to avoid hefty fines.**

Another fox checking the hen house!

Did you get the name of the truck driver that ran into me? Whatcha mean no driver?

Last month, autonomous truck upstart Starsky Robotics became the first player in the self-driving truck game to drive in fully autonomous mode on a public road without a person in the cab. A remote driver, more than 100 miles from small country road near the Town of Clewiston in Hendry County, Florida placed the bobtail tractor in drive, centered the truck in it's lane and then put the truck in full autonomous mode for a seven mile un-manned jaunt at highway speed.

Last April, the company began using self-driving trucks in yards and major freight lanes, hauling everything from 5,000 pounds of milk crates to 40,000 pounds of tile.

In September, Starsky Robotics completed the longest end to end autonomous trip on record, hauling Hurricane Irma recovery aid, including water, 68 miles through Florida with a person in the cab (an engineer) but without their intervention.

They say they expect to haul intrastate freight with unmanned trucks this year through partnerships his company has forged with select shippers.

They are going to invest \$16.5 million to expand the company, hire new drivers,

engineers, and will also enable additional long-range testing. Be warned all you scabs that took good union truck driving jobs, a robot is coming for you.

All of this, they say, is because of a truck driver shortage. Maybe if instead of hiring engineers, pay good wages and benefits, there may not be a driver shortage.

RETIRED AMERICANS

On Saturday, February 24, 2018, working people and retirees gathered in more than 25 cities across the country to stand up against attacks on unions. Rallies and marches took place from coast to coast as tens of thousands came together to revive Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call for freedom and dignity at work.

The events came two days before the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case I wrote about on the previous page, Janus vs AFSCME. The justices could reverse a long-held ruling from 1977 that gave public employee unions the right to collect dues from non-members who derive benefits from negotiations on their behalf.

Their message: American workers deserve decent and equitable pay for their work, affordable health care, quality schools, vibrant communities and a secure retirement.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the Working People's Day of Action," said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance for Retired Americans. "Together, we'll continue to stand up for the freedom of working people to come together and fight for their communities and their futures." The Alliance is the best for retirees!

MORE RETIREE NEWS

The most recent administration policy aimed at dismantling restrictions on short term health insurance care plans, would make it easier for healthy individuals not to join the insurance pool. Short term health insurance is a cheaper alternative to regular coverage, but it is exempt from the minimum coverage requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These plans are allowed to provide basically no coverage for hospital visits and they have the ability to deny anyone coverage for preexisting conditions. Under the ACA, the maximum amount of time an individual was allowed to have a short-term insurance plan was three months. However, the administration is increasing that time frame to 364 days.

This will drive the healthy people, who are enticed by the low premiums, out of the insurance pool, leaving the sickest individuals to pay the most. There is no doubt that premiums will rise and that is the administration's goal. When the premiums go up, the people blame the ACA, not the government and not the insurance companies. After they have torn the ACA apart, instead of fixing it, they can dump any kind of crappy, so called health insurance plan on the American people.

PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE

Your retiree club has a problem and needs your help. My computer developed a serious problem and I had to have it repaired. During the repair, almost all of the information stored on the computer, including

the backed up information was lost. This means that most of the information, names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses were lost. I have written information on a spread sheet that has probably 95-98% of it and I am in the process of restoring it now. I also have a list of dues paid for 2018 so that is not a problem. To keep everything updated I am including a membership form on the next page for your use.

I not asking you to pay your dues again if you have already paid but I do need you to fill out the other info, including email address, so we can be assured all of our files are accurate and up to date.

If you have not paid your 2018 dues please do so at this time.

If you are not a member and receiving this newsletter as a courtesy. Probably because of spreading the news about the pension meeting on March 31st and would like to join, we invite you to fill out the form and mail in your \$30 dues for the calendar year of 2018. This retiree club is supported by the annual dues of each member and in turn supports each retiree. We do receive a lot of support from Local 79 and we in turn try to do what we can to help them too. We are Teamsters and take care of each other.