

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 a.m. ♦ FEB - APR - JUNE - AUG - OCT - DEC



February, 2018

### MEETING NOTICE

We will have our Retiree's General Membership meeting and covered dish luncheon on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. All of our meetings are held at the Teamsters Local Union No. 79 located at 5818 E. MLK Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619 unless otherwise noted. After the business meeting we will have our covered dish luncheon. Then we can have some good conversation and tell a few "war" stories with our fellow retired Teamsters.

Bring your spouse or a guest and don't forget the COVERED DISH or a good dessert. Come on out and enjoy yourself and maybe learn something about what's going on within the Teamsters and the retirees.

### NEW COMMITTEE FORMED FOR POLITICS AND PENSION

After a lot of discussions and thought, we have added a new committee to help us gather information on the political front and the pension problem. Although it is not a Political Action Committee as we know it, where the PAC can donate money to campaigns and

support candidates, we are calling it that at least for now.

Since Jim Mason and Ed Coombs have been involved in the pension crisis for a long while, I ask them to serve as the co-chairmen of the PAC. As of the writing of this newsletter, Jim is in Washington now with a large group of Teamster retirees lobbying for H.R. 4444, known as the Butch Lewis Act of 2017. They are pushing to get it out of committee and attached to the budget bill that is scheduled to come up for a vote on Friday, 1/19/18. If we have your e-mail address you should have received an e-mail message by now urging you to contact your Representative in the House asking them to co-sponsor this bill and help get it out of committee and passed. As we know, the Leader of the House, Paul Ryan, is no fan of labor and may deny it coming out of committee. That is why it is so important to put as much pressure as possible on members of the House.

Including in this newsletter is a form to send your e-mail address to us and to give us any corrections to addresses and phone numbers. Some of the e-mail addresses I have are no longer good. This year is an important political year to all people,

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especially to union members/retirees. The bill, H.R. 4444, as of 1/11/18, has 127 cosponsors, 125 Democrats and 2 Republicans. We are hoping for more from the GOP to assist us.

## **NEW INFO JUST CAME IN**

Bear with the writer while he pieces this info together. Thanks to our guys in Washington, this current info was just relayed to me by Ed Coombs.

Apparently there is not the urgency on the spending bill like it was before the holiday break. So we should have a little more time for the H.R. 4444 in the House so we can keep the phones humming daily.

Please keep calling the Republican legislators in your state. We have been informed by members of Congress that it doesn't do any good to call legislators in other states. We were also told to call the Washington, D.C. phone numbers at this point, they are not in their local offices.

Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, are the exceptions and can be called by anyone in any state. Calling Mitch McConnell is top priority.

Calling the legislators for the purpose of thanking them can be done from any state.

Please call all of the other Senators and Representatives in your state.

**Do not call Democrats, they are fully on board already. Call only Republicans.**

**It is ok to call all House Representatives in your state even if you are not in their District. Just let them know you reside in their state. We want to cover as many legislators as possible.**

To find your Representative, go to: [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)

**Please be polite during your entire call, whether you are talking to a real person or a recording. Say thank you before hanging up. Remember, we are asking for their help. Complete courtesy is essential.**

**Important talking points:**

**1) Ask for their "Support in getting the Butch Lewis Pension Rehabilitation Act attached to the January 19 budget bill." Be sure to give Senators bill S 2147 and House Reps H.R. 4444. Please be sure to use the exact wording of this sentence, as this will allow the bill to be attached without hearings.**

**2) Ask them to attend the bipartisan working group meetings set by Senators Brown and Portman in the Senate and Congressman Nolan in the House. Let them know they are working together to finalize a solution to get the Butch Lewis Act on the budget bill and passed.**

**3) Ask them to reach out to their Congressional Leadership to act on the Butch Lewis Act.**

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**4) Let them know the more this is kicked down the road, the more expensive it gets. Inform them that in just the last four years of kicking the can instead of addressing the issue has cost of a minimum \$35 billion and it's projected to go to \$102 billion in the next seven years.**

**We really need to focus on making these calls. Nothing else should be taking priority over your calls.**

**Be sure to set your calendars to remind yourself several times a day to make these calls. That way we won't have to keep reminding you to call.**

**Our power is in our numbers. We are asking for everyone and their spouses to participate in making these calls.**

**Yes, we know the bill could be delayed again. Please Keep calling just in case.**

**Please share this on Facebook or any other means of communications and get as many people involved as possible.**

**If you need to find who your Representative in the House is go to: [House.gov/findyourrepresentative](http://House.gov/findyourrepresentative)**

**The Senate version of the Butch Harris Act, S 2147, was brought up on the Senate floor tonight while I was preparing this newsletter for mailing tomorrow, Wednesday. There are a lot of Senators supporting this bill. The problem will probably be in the House.**

**This is the best shot we have had to save our pensions and we can't allow this opportunity to get by us. Even if your pension is not a multi-employer pension plan like Central States, we are all union and Teamsters fighting together for the common good for all.**

**Our new PAC has a Mission Statement for its purpose; "To engage our Union Retirees and Members to partner with supportive legislators to influence and improve the quality of life for retirees, members, seniors, and our communities."**

**Thanks go out to Sue Mason, Jim's wife, for coming up with that wording. I believe it fits our goals and needs.**

## **MORE POLITICS**

**According to a New York Times editorial in late December, 2017, the Department of Labor recently proposed allowing employers to pool tips and use them as they see fit as long as all of their workers are paid at least the minimum wage, which is \$7.25 per hour nationally and higher in some states and cities. Their argument is that this will free restaurants to use some of the tip money to reward lowly dishwashers, line cooks and other workers. A simple reading of the government's proposal makes clear that business owners would have no obligation to use the money in this way. They would be free to pocket some or all of that cash, spend it to spiff up the dining room or use it to underwrite \$2 margaritas at happy hour.**

**The Trump administration appears to**

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be rushing this rule through, in part to pre-empt the Supreme Court from ruling on an Obama-era tipping rule. The restaurant industry has filed several legal challenges to that regulation, which prohibits business from pooling tips and sharing. Donald Trump, of course, owns restaurants as part of his hospitality empire and stands to benefit from this rule change, as do many of his friends and campaign donors. But what the restaurant business might not fully appreciate is that their attempt to gain control over tips could alienate and antagonize customers. Diners who are no longer certain that their tips will no longer end up in the hands of the server they intended to reward might leave no tip at all. Others might seek to covertly slip cash to their server.

This NYT editorial was printed in the December 26, 2017 Tampa Bay Times. There must have been a lot of calls the two newspapers because the next day this was in the Tampa Bay Times;

#### **Note to readers**

To comment on the proposed rule change on tipping discussed in a New York Times editorial published Tuesday, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for WHD-2017-0003. Check it out and make your comments about this.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND OTHER “ENTITLEMENTS”**

In interviews last month, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) signaled his intention to force a 2018 debate

on “restructuring” Medicare, as well as several big safety-net programs. “We have to address entitlements, otherwise we can’t really get a handle on our future debt,” Ryan said on “CBS This Morning” in December. Ryan is expected to move so-called “entitlement reform” through the House and then exert pressure on the Senate to take up the issue. Among the ideas that Ryan favors are raising the Social Security retirement age and the Medicare eligibility age, and converting Medicare to a voucher program, ending the promise of guaranteed medical benefits for retirees.

### **NURSING HOME REGS**

The Trump Administration, reversing guidelines put in place under President Obama, is scaling back the use of fines against nursing homes that harm residents or place them in grave risk of injury.

Since 2013, nearly 6,500 nursing homes, 4 of every 10, have been cited at least once for a serious violation, according to federal records.

Medicare has fined two-thirds of those homes. Common citations include failing to protect residents from avoidable accidents, neglect, mistreatment and bedsores.

The new guidelines discourage regulators from levying fines in some situations even when they have resulted in a resident’s death. The guidelines will also probably result in lower fines for many facilities.

Nursing homes often claim they are doing the best they can with limited budgets but the owners are doing very well financially according to the New York Times.

## WHEN INSULTS HAD CLASS

These glorious insults are from an era before the English got boiled down to 4 letter words.

A member of Parliament to Disraeli:  
“Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.”

“That depends, Sir,” said Disraeli,  
“whether ! embrace your policies or your mistress.”

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.”

-Winston Churchill

“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.”

-Clarence Darrow

“I didn’t attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.”

-Mark Twain

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.”

-Oscar Wilde

“I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one.”

-George Bernard Shaw

To Winston Churchill

“Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one.”

-Winston Churchill, in response.

## MORE HUMOR

How do you get Donald Trump to change a light bulb?

You tell him that Obama installed the old one.

## LABOR NEWS

It was bad enough when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was taken control of by three extremely anti-union appointees. They didn’t waste any time undoing a lot of progress made for the labor movement the last few years. Now we have another foe to deal with that is anti-union, Neil Gorsuch on the Supreme Court, for life.

The group of wealthy conservatives that supported Donald Trump because they knew he would appoint a conservative to the Supreme Court. The group got what they wanted when Trump put Neil Gorsuch on the highest court in the land. Gorsuch is not only an unimpeachably conservative justice, he’s only 50 years old, meaning he’ll likely have decades on the Court, where he will be able to reshape law in all sorts of fields. One of the most significant results will almost surely be a massive blow to the country’s beleaguered labor movement. Gorsuch has a history of favoring employers over employees in legal disputes. In a case involving a truck driver who abandoned a broken down trailer in sub-zero temperatures when he started losing feeling in his limbs, Gorsuch sided with the company’s decision to fire the man in a dissent Senator Al Franken grilled him during his confirmation hearings. Now, the anti-union forces have turned their sights on the public sector unions and in state after state they are passing laws trying to break up union’s chances of organizing the public employees.

Labor has a rough and rocky road ahead. We have traveled it before.