

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



February, 2017

MEETING NOTICE

We will have our Retiree's General Membership meeting and covered dish luncheon on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 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. Come on out and enjoy yourself and maybe learn something about what's going on within the Teamsters and the retirees.

A little side note:

If any of you or your spouses can help in the kitchen putting together the covered dishes and helping with the clean up after the luncheon, please let me or one of the Board members know when you arrive. My wife, Marlyn, will still be recovering from hip replacement surgery and will not be able to attend let alone do any of her normal things on these

meeting days. Whatever you can do will be deeply appreciated. Thank you for your consideration and help.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you missed the Christmas Party and meeting, it was your loss. We had a good turn out and had plenty to eat, plenty of door prizes and good fellowship with our retired brothers and sisters. I thought that it may have been lacking something but since the party, several members have told us that it was great.

The Christmas Party cost was in line with past years and if anything, it was a little cheaper.

Food, door prizes, supplies,
Total cost, \$1,107.52

Some of the supplies we had to buy will be used during the year, including the next Christmas Party.

DATES TO REMEMBER

G.M. meetings: 2/1, 4/5, 6/7, 8/2, 10/4,
12/6 Christmas Party – 10 a.m.

Calendar book mailing: 12/7 – 10 a.m.

Newsletter mailings: 3/22, 5/24, 7/19,
9/20, 11/15 – 10 a.m.

All are times and dates are subject to change if necessary.

PENSION INFORMATION

We all know that we have a hard fight on our hands over our pensions. They are not going to give up until they have wiped us and our pensions out.

Back in early December, 2016, Representative John Kline (R-MN) who was retiring at the end of his term, was working hard in concert with some high paid lobbyists to get the "composite bill" inserted in the end-year Appropriations bill. The same as he did with the MPRA (Multiemployer Pension Reform Act) at the end of the 2014 congressional session. We fought that and won round one. Fortunately, he was not able to get the composite legislation into the hopper like he did with the MPRA, thanks to a lot of members of the House that were concerned about their future re-elections if the public turned against them. Do not think that we have won another round because the fight is still on. Don't think for a minute that as part of the Central States Pension Fund we are by ourselves. I am sure you have heard about the Mine Workers Pension and now the New York Teamsters Pension Fund is in trouble. According to Eileen Appelbaum, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C., said she was not surprised by the findings on the Teamsters fund. "Wall Street promises these really high returns, but private equity has not delivered since 2006, and hedge funds have been losing money for a very long time," Ms. Appelbaum said. "it's not a sensible way to proceed." They are now in the same boat we were in with

Central States, waiting for the Treasury Dept. to make a ruling on proposed cuts.

Now the Machinists Union (IAM), who have a solvent pension plan, have warned that such legislation would weaken all multi-employer plans, even those that are solvent. IAM International President Bob Martinez stated, "This is a thinly veiled attempt to undermine multi-employer defined benefit plans. This flawed proposal would shrink the number of defined benefit plans, and since fewer plans would be paying premiums to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, it would also hurt solvent plans." The so called "composite plans" would enable many employers to escape from withdrawal liability and would undermine the retirement security of millions of Americans.

There is a possibility, very slim possibility, that we may have help coming. Our incoming President, Donald J. Trump, draws a union pension. According to *Mic* Journalists Andrew Joyce, "Among the many remarkable discoveries found in Trump's limited financial disclosures to date is the fact that the self-proclaimed billionaire real-estate mogul was, as recently as 2015, still collecting a \$168,000 pension, and maybe more, from the Screen Actors Guild for playing himself in *The Apprentice*. A spokesperson for the Trump transition team did not immediately respond to *Mic's* inquiry about whether Trump still received his SAG pension in 2016." Maybe he will help us secure our pension plans because doing so would help secure Donald Trump's own union pension.

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

The following came from Rich Fiesta, Executive Director, Alliance for Retired Americans, on Jan. 14, 2017.

Tell Trump to Stand With Retirees, Not Paul Ryan.

Throughout his presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised not to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

But since November, his Republican supporters on Capitol Hill have taken steps to dismantle and cut our earned benefits.

We think Mr. Trump needs to make it clear that he intends to keep the promises he made to the American people. He must publicly tell Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell that he will VETO and cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Millions believed Donald Trump when he said "... We are not going to cut your Social Security and we're not cutting your Medicare." It's up to us to hold him to that promise.

We have earned these benefits through a lifetime of hard work.

Social Security and Medicare represent a sacred trust, a contract between the United States and the American people that should not be broken.

If you are a member of the ARA, you may have received this letter from Rich like I did. I added this to our newsletter so the non-members could understand what they miss by not paying that \$10.00 a year to join.

If you are on Medicare, you need to

know that if the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) is totally abolished, there will be some serious effect on Medicare. There are provisions in the ACA that have lowered prescription drug cost, offered subsidized insurance for many older workers and allowed free preventive services for all seniors. If you have an illness that causes you to take a lot of high priced prescription drugs that cause you to go into the "doughnut hole" early in the year, you may have to go back to paying full price for your drugs then. Under the Medicare Part D that covers your drugs before the ACA was passed that is what happens. When you are in that phase of the plan you have to pay full price. With the amendment the ACA provided, you only paid a percentage of the cost and each year the so called "doughnut hole" was closing more and will eventually be completely closed. Then the insurance will pay most of the cost and you will pay only the co-pay depending on what Tier your drug is in.

January 23, 2017 is National Call the White House Day. You can call and remind President Trump about his promises not to cut our earned benefits. Also, tell him that if the ACA is repealed there must be a new plan to take effect immediately to protect the seniors and the rest of the American people.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2017 DUES YET PLEASE USE THE FORM ENCLOSED TO DO SO. IF YOU HAVE PAID YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE THE FORM UNLESS TO DO AN ADDRESS CHANGE. THANK YOU.