

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

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



June, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

Our June General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be at Local 79's union hall located at 5818 E. MLK Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619.

After the meeting, we will have our covered dish luncheon. So bring your spouse or guest and some covered dish or something from the grocery store, local deli and enjoy good food and fellowship with your fellow retirees.

Speaking of the grocery store, the next time you are there, please pick up some food and bring it to the meeting in June for the Children's Home. Canned goods, cereals, pasta, any foods that do not need refrigeration. Bring some food, the kids get hungry too!

WE WON ROUND 1 AND OUR BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

I am sure that if you are on Central States pension plan you have heard that the Treasury Department denied the plan on the pension cuts. However, that's only Round 1 of our fight and there is some information

about Round 2 on page 5.

I have taken the liberty of adding to this newsletter some letters and press releases from the IBT.

At the June 1st meeting, I will have some booklets made up of other sources of pension information that you may or not have access to. It's possible that we may have more information by then also.

Now, about our bus trip to another world, Washington, D.C. It was a trip that made you proud to be a Teamster, even if you are retired. We left the Local 79 Union Hall at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13 and traveled thru the night stopping on rare occasions at rest areas. We arrived outside of D.C. early enough to have breakfast and coffee (by the gallons) at a Cracker Barrel. After we fueled ourselves we headed towards the Capital, going thru traffic jams that would make L.A. jealous. We still arrived early to the site of the rally and became concerned because there was not a large crowd. They kept getting on the P.A. system and asking all of the people that were on the sides to please move to the back so it would look like a larger crowd.

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After that announcement had been made two or three times, it wasn't necessary anymore because after fighting the traffic jams a lot of buses arrived late but before the rally started. We were not just blown away by the crowd but it made all of us proud to be part of it and wearing our Teamster colors. They did not have to tell the people to move to the back anymore because there was no room in the back and they were on all sides including behind the stage. What a sight and how great it was to be a Teamster. It was obvious that this crowd meant business on pensions. During the speeches from members of Congress and many others supporting us, we saw in the background many members of Congress coming out of their inner sanctum to hear what was going on. There was so much noise with people shouting "NO CUTS". I firmly believe they knew the members and retirees of the Teamsters were prepared to stand up for what they knew was the right thing to do.

After the rally, we boarded the buses and went to our respective hotels where, at least for us, the first order of business was shower, brush our teeth, and rest. Then it was time for dinner and after looking out our window, Joe Rumore and I knew where we would eat. There was a Hooter's right next door. After eating Cuban sandwiches and various snacks on the way up, we were all prepared to chow down. Joe and I were not the only ones that saw the Hooter's, everybody on our bus came in there. Then it was time to sleep in something besides a bus seat. Nobody stayed up late, because we

knew we were leaving for home early Friday morning.

We had two people from Local Union 385 in Orlando that we had picked up and had to drop them off at L.U. 385. We arrived at Local 79 about 11:30 and had the bus unloaded in a few minutes and headed home.

It was good to see some people that I had not seen in years. We turned a hard trip into sort of a reunion of Brothers. I know when the decision came from the Treasury Department declining Central States plan, they all had that feeling of winning part of a battle but with more still to come.

Were there disappointments? Oh yes, a couple.

One was after sending out numerous e-mails, over 1,100 newsletters, and a bunch of phone calls, all with the information about the bus trip, it was sad we had only 25 people from Local 79 and 2 from Local 385 go on that trip. Two Local Unions! As you may remember, we packed the hall at the February meeting with people complaining about the pension cuts, but they were not on the bus. We were not the only ones either. Local 769 from Miami picked up some from Local 512 in Jacksonville and I am told they only had about 40 on the bus.

The second disappointment was personal. I totaled my truck on the way home that night and got a little banged up. All because of a hit and run driver. Ah crud!

Even with those disappointments, I would do it again in a heartbeat but next time I'll catch a ride home or have the wife pick me up.

Now let's see how well I can cut and paste the rest of this newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202 624 6800
www.teamster.org

May 6, 2016

Dear Teamster Retiree Chapter President:

We are pleased to notify you that today the U.S. Treasury Department has announced its decision to deny the Central States Pension Fund application for suspension of benefits under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA). Attached here you will find the Union's press release on the subject.

This decision means that there won't be any cuts to retirees' pensions this July or the foreseeable future. We will find a solution to this problem that will allow members and retirees to continue to retire with dignity.

This is an important victory for all Central States retirees and active plan participants. These cuts had the potential to devastate not only retiree families, but also the communities where retirees live and spend money. However, our fight is not yet over.

Now, it is time to focus on intensifying the legislative campaign to pass the Keep our Pension Promises Act, or KOPPA (S. 1631/H.R. 2844), and the Pension Accountability Act, or PAA (S. 2147/H.R. 4029). We encourage everyone to contact their Senators and Representatives to ask them to support these important bills that will restore fairness to the pension system by making pension obligations a higher priority in bankruptcy proceedings, create a legacy fund within the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, and require a majority, binding vote from plan participants before any cuts may be made. For more information and future updates on KOPPA and PAA, go to www.teamster.org. Click on 'Read More' on the 'Protect Pensions! No Cuts!' banner.

TEAMSTERS NEWS

International Brotherhood
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001 • www.teamster.org



of Teamsters
202-624-6911 • fax: 202-624-6918

For immediate Release
May 6, 2016

Contact: Gaalen Munroe, (202) 624-6911
gmunroe@teamster.org

TEAMSTERS APPLAUD TREASURY DECISION TO DENY CENTRAL STATES CUTS, PROTECT RETIREE PENSIONS

Union Will Continue to Move Forward on Legislative Efforts to Repeal MPRA, Protect Pensions

(WASHINGTON) – Today, the Department of Treasury's announced its decision to deny the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund (CSPF) application to cut the pensions of thousands of Teamsters Union retirees. The union applauds this decision, and will continue to work with members of Congress to find a solution to the pension crisis.

CSPF filed the application for cuts with the Treasury Department in September 2015 as allowed under the Kline-Miller Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA). Treasury appointed Kenneth Feinberg as a Special Master in June 2015 to review all applications submitted by funds under the MPRA. Feinberg determined that the CSPF application did not meet all the requirements set by Congress in the MPRA.

"On behalf of our union and the more than 400,000 retirees and participants in Central States Pension Fund, I would like to thank Mr. Feinberg and the Department of Treasury for denying these massive cuts that would destroy so many lives. We worked with thousands of retirees to educate Treasury and Congress on the devastating impact of the proposed cuts," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "This decision means that there won't be any cuts to retirees' pensions this July or the foreseeable future. We will find a solution to this problem that will allow members and retirees to continue to retire with dignity."

The union supports the Pension Accountability Act, which addresses concerns with MPRA, and the Keep Our Pension Promises Act, which would protect workers and retirees from cuts to their earned retirement benefits. The Teamsters will continue its legislative efforts to repeal MPRA and find a viable solution to the pension crisis.

"The MPRA was a horrible piece of legislation that would have never passed through Congress on its own merits," said Eastern Region International Vice President John Murphy. "It passed in the eleventh hour as a self-executing amendment to a spending bill that had to go through. In the short term, we intend to continue to push through legislative remedies that will fix the negative aspects of the MPRA while fighting to repeal the law in the long term."

Members of Congress support the retirees' fight against the cuts. In February, a bipartisan collection of 90 House members signed onto a letter sent to the Treasury asking it to reject Central States application. And 25 senators, both Republicans and Democrats, did the same in a separate letter. Additionally, 46 U.S. Senators signed on to a letter sent to Sec. of Treasury Jacob Lew on April 15, calling on him to carefully consider the impact the cuts could have on the CSPF retirees and ensure that all criteria are thoroughly considered before making a decision on the application.

"I worked for 31 years with the expectation that when I retired my pension was going to be there to support me through my golden years," said Mike Walden, a retiree out of Local 24 in Akron, Ohio. "A pension is a promise made by the company to the employee and there is no acceptable reason that the promise should be broken. This was the right decision."

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 "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/teamsters.

CLEAR UP A RUMOR

It has come to my attention that someone is telling new retirees not to pay dues to our club because the Local Union pays the first years dues for them.

Normally that is true but it has been several months since that has occurred. What I have been telling new retirees is if they want to pay their dues then do so. If the Local Union pays their dues later then we will refund the amount they paid for their first year or we will apply it to the next year's dues. It is their choice to make. If anyone ever has any questions about anything to do with this club please ask one of the Executive Board members or me.

ROUND 2 IN THE PENSION FIGHT

Our second round of the battle is with Congress. We must convince them to pass the legislation that has been introduced in Congress.

The first bill is Keep Our Pension Promises Act (KOPPA), S. 1631 and H.R. 2844 was sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders in the Senate and Representative Marcy Kaptur in the House of Representatives.

The second bill is the Pension Accountability Act (PAA). S. 2147 and H.R. 4029 were sponsored by Senator Portman in the Senate and Representatives David Joyce and Tim Ryan in the House.

We need these bills to pass and made into law. I have enclosed a sample letter that you may use as a guideline. Feel free to change the wording to fit your feeling but keep the meaning intact. The letter also

contains a good description of what these bills will do to help us.

Please don't delay in sending your letters in to the Senators and your Representative in the House. Don't just stop with one letter either.

Change the wording a little and simply tell them how important these laws are to the economy. Do this by pointing out that retirees having their pension cut will have less money to spend on everyday items like groceries, auto fuel, prescription drugs and other items used in their homes and everyday life. Put on the pressure and don't let up.

You can also go to the IBT web site at www.teamster.org and click on "Read More" on the "Protect Pensions! No Cuts!" banner and obtain more info.

THANK YOU MANY TIMES

To all the people that did go on the bus trip, THANK YOU so much for going. Also, those of you that sent me e-mails thanking me for setting up the trip, the bus, the hotel, the food, and numerous other things, I want you to know it was very much appreciated. I will say though that this experience showed me a little of what General Eisenhower went thru planning the D-Day invasion in WWII. We also have to remember that we must give thanks to the Local Union and the Joint Council for furnishing the money for the bus and food. All of this was started by a few Teamsters and grew into thousands and it's still growing.

We were blessed to have two great bus drivers that had a good sense of humor and a lot of patience with a bunch of Teamsters that were about to fight for their way of life.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator/Representative:

As you probably know, the Department of the Treasury has rejected the application to cut pension benefits proposed by the Central States Fund. While this was a great victory for retirees, we still have a long fight ahead of us to ensure that retirees' earned benefits and quality of life are protected. Both the Keep Our Pension Promises Act (KOPPA) and the Pension Accountability Act (PAA) would help achieve this end. I urge you to co-sponsor this legislation if you have not done so already and reach out to leadership to ask them to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote.

S. 1631/H.R. 2844, KOPPA, sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders in the Senate and Representative Marcy Kaptur in the House of Representatives, would restore the anti-cutback rule which, until passage of the 2014 "CRomnibus," prevented cuts from being made to accrued pension benefits. KOPPA also helps strengthen multiemployer pension plans by creating a "Legacy Fund" within the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to address the issue of underfunded "orphaned" participants. It does this by closing two tax loopholes that only benefit the wealthiest members of society. It also helps multiemployer pension plans by making pension obligations a higher priority in bankruptcy proceedings.

While KOPPA would help shore up pension benefits in the long-term, in the short-term retirees need to have a voice in proposed cuts to their earned benefits. Currently retirees are given a vote on proposed pension cuts but the vote is unfair as it is non-binding and any ballot that goes unreturned is counted in favor of the cuts. S. 2147/H.R. 4029, the Pension Accountability Act, sponsored by Senator Portman and Representatives David Joyce and Tim Ryan, would make the voting fair by requiring a majority, binding vote from plan participants before and cuts may be made and by tabulating only returned ballots.

I am overjoyed that the Central States' application to cut the pension benefits has been rejected by the Treasury, but the funds still need to be fixed so that retiree's earned benefits are secure for many years to come. Please support KOPPA and PAA and contact leadership so that these important bills can be voted on.

Signature

Address

City, State, zip code

e-mail address (if you have one)

**PLEASE, USE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU
HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2016 DUES, OR WISH TO
JOIN OR TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

**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 _____

**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**

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



To Serve and Improve
Our Members Life

**KEEP UP THE FIGHT TO SAVE
OUR PENSIONS**

**CONTACT YOUR
SENATORS AND YOUR
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

MORE INFO INSIDE