Teamster Public Employees Make Voices Heard With Governor Easley

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Voice of Teamsters Local 391

Teamsters Local 391 BUG January 2008

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December 2007

INCOME
Dues...........................................................$336,421.05
Initiation and Reinitiation Fees.........................810.75
Receipts from Affiliates.................................14,242.69
Other Income.................................................6,979.25
Total Income...............................................351,796.70

EXPENSES
Salaries..........................................................102,496.26
Expense Allowances.........................................2,310.00
Auto Allowance..................................................200.00
Lost Time Wages...............................................943.60
Per Capita Taxes...............................................85,913.12
Contributions..................................................1,500.00
Benefits Paid..................................................40,573.00
Refund Dues......................................................342.00
Office and Administrative..............................18,576.92
Legal Fees.........................................................3,725.12
Other Professional Fees.................................2,916.64
Taxes...............................................................7,913.14
Payroll Expenses..................................................26.25
Organizing Expenses...........................................5,603.64
Meeting & Committee Expenses......................3,727.36
Auto Expenses..................................................9,622.73
Out-of-Town Travel.........................................12,320.00
Other Expenses...............................................19,843.58
Total Expenses.......................................318,533.76

NET INCREASE IN CASH..........................33,242.94

The Teamsters union and TMI/YRC Worldwide have reached a tentative agreement on a new National Master Freight contract. Freight Division union leaders say the proposed contract protects workers’ jobs and benefits and allows the unionized companies a chance to better compete against nonunion carriers. The agreement also addresses the issue of excessive overtime.

Local 391 to Hold Review Meetings

The contract covers about 75,000 freight Teamsters. TMI, Trucking Management, Inc., negotiates for YRC subsidiaries including Yellow Transportation, Roadway Express and USF Holland. ABF will negotiate separately for a contract covering its employees.

At press time, Local 391 is setting up meetings with its YRC freight members to review the terms of the proposed contract.

UPS Pact Passes

Teamster members have ratified a new 5-year UPS contract that covers more than 230,000 members across the U.S.

The national contract passed by a big vote nationwide and by a 3-1 margin among Local 391’s members. Likewise, the Atlantic Area Supplement was ratified.

Both the new UPS/Teamsters pension for full-time employees and the new health care program for part-timers come into effect January 1, 2007.

National Contract

Yes No
Local 391 905 75% 297 25%
National 65% 35%

Atlantic Area Supplement

Yes No
Local 391 890 74% 311 26%
Atlantic 4,166 63% 2,490 37%
**President's Message:** *Greensboro newspaper prints Cipriani column.*

**Cipriani Op-Ed Calls American Dream Key to Building Better Future**

The recent city and municipal elections were very successful for Teamster members across North Carolina.

Thanks to the hard work of our members, we helped elect friends of working families to School Boards, City Councils and Mayoral positions. These candidates pledged to work with us on an agenda that benefits our members.

**No Accident**

For a list of our endorsed candidates who were elected, see the story on page 9.

Make no mistake – this political success didn’t happen by accident. Not only are we setting records with our political contributions (see story page 12) but our great success in organizing means that politicians have to take us seriously.

Growing our membership also grows our political clout.

**Strong Program**

Much of our organizing has taken place in the public sector. Since state law prohibits these workers from enjoying a collective bargaining agreement, (see story page 11) they are joining Local 391 because it is clear that our members run a strong political program.

The beauty of this is that ALL of our members – both private and public sector – reap the benefits. At the same time that local and state governments work on specific issues, the general political climate is changing. Our leverage is increased to pursue policies at all levels of government that help working families.

**Everybody Benefits**

Heck, our nonunion brothers and sisters will enjoy some of our success and they don’t even know it!

Everyone knows how corporate America has basically had its way the last 25 years. Many times their political agenda has steamrolled everything else in sight, including our livelihoods.

**Fighting Back**

Thankfully, we are fighting back and leveling the playing field. We’ve got a long way to go, but things are looking up. We have to keep organizing and growing our membership to grow our political power. Remember – UNITED WE WIN!

Fraternally,

Jack Cipriani

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**Candidates Win**

*Continued from page 9*

process was that we have the strength to let it actually mean something to the candidates,” added Cipriani. “Our members gave their time to canvass neighborhoods, make phone calls and get people to the polls. In addition, thanks to strong participation in our political action committee DRIVE, we were able to offer contributions to every endorsed candidate. In a local race, even a relatively small contribution makes a huge difference. In some cases, we were the candidate’s largest contributor. Don’t think that support won’t make a difference when we need help for our members – it definitely will.”
Because state law prohibits Teamster public employees from working under a collective bargaining agreement, the best way to improve the workplace is to directly lobby policymakers. Local 391 works with politicians at all levels to make sure they know how government decisions affect working families. This process starts with members of school boards and town councils and goes all the way up to the Governor's office.

Local 391 President Jack Cipriani recently led a delegation of the public employees to meet with North Carolina Governor Mike Easley.

A Strong Friend

“We’ve had so much success in organizing police officers and classified school employees across the state that it was time for Governor Easley to see that success first-hand. Of course, the Governor has been a strong friend to Local 391 and he was happy to meet with our members.”

In the meeting, rank-and-file members had the chance to tell the Governor directly their personal stories. The issues ranged from summer employment for school workers to pension improvements for police officers.

Teamster Stories

“The important thing is that Governor Easley can now put a face and a story with these issues as he considers the best course of action,” said Rick Armstrong, a Raleigh police officer. “There are not many unions that have the strong relationship with the Governor where he is willing to sit down with members. These political relationships are exactly why my fellow police officers voted to affiliate with Local 391.”

“Our members had the chance to get in some extremely important lobbying today,” Cipriani added. “Moreover, our members got to see the fruits of our political program first-hand. They can go back and tell their brothers and sisters how they met with the Governor and why that was possible – political action.”
Lindsay Dupell

Lindsay is the daughter of Gary Dupell, who works for UPS in Winston-Salem. She attended East Forsyth High School in Kernersville, where she received excellent grades, and plans on obtaining a nursing degree in college.

Brian Peele

Brian's father, Anthony, works for UPS. With a 4.068 weighted grade point average, Brian was an honor student graduate of Bertie High School in Windsor. He plans on pursuing a Computer Engineering degree in college.

Angela White

Angela's father, Johnny, works for Ball Corporation in Reidsville. She graduated from Morehead High School in Eden. As an animal lover she is thinking about pursuing college courses preparing her for a career in zoology.

Winner Profiles

High School Seniors Apply for Local 391's Scholarship

See the following 3 pages for application and program rules.
Change Dates to on Scholarship previously prepared.
Legendary Speaker of the US House of Representatives Tip O’Neil was fond of saying – “all politics are local.” What O’Neil meant was that as important as national politics are – everything starts at the local level. People care first and foremost about what is happening in their backyard.

Nowhere was this more evident than the 2007 local and municipal elections. Cities and counties across North Carolina elected mayors, city council members, aldermen and school board members.

“These local elections were extremely important for Local 391 members,” said Jack Cipriani, Teamsters Local 391 President. “Our local has seen tremendous growth in the last couple of years by organizing public employees such as police officers and classified school workers. Since these workers are prohibited by law from being covered by a collective bargaining agreement, we have to build relationships with the policymakers who craft the local laws and rules that affect their employment.”

As with every process in Local 391, municipal endorsements were decided by the membership in each locality. Screening meetings were held with candidates that let rank-and-file members find out about issues directly. Each endorsement was then voted on by the membership. If a pro-Teamster candidate could not be found for a given seat, no endorsement was given.

“The best part of the endorsement

Continued on page 3
History in the Making

Teamsters Play Big Role In Electing Greensboro’s First African-American Mayor

It’s not every day that Teamsters get the chance to contribute to history in the making, but long-time Greensboro activist Yvonne Johnson provided that opportunity with her successful campaign to be the Mayor of Gate City.

“I am proud that Local 391 could be part of electing the first African-American Mayor in Greensboro history,” said Jack Cipriani, Teamsters Local 391 President. “While that is certainly important, the reasons that our members chose to support Mayor Johnson’s candidacy go much deeper. She has always been with us on the issues.”

In 14 years on the Greensboro City Council, Johnson has established a long track record of fighting for working families. Recently, Johnson led a move to overrun the city’s powerful city manager after he attempted to deny a citizens’ coqalition from placing a referendum on the next ballot to raise the minimum wage in Greensboro to $9.36 per hour.

The group, which Local 391 has helped from the time of its formation, collected the required signatures of residents to get the idea on the ballot. However, the city’s manager and attorney tried to change the rules and deny the concept from ever getting on the ballot. Johnson didn’t go for it, pulled 7 out of 9 council members with her, and now Greensboro voters will decide on allowing minimum wage workers to get better pay.

Getting the support of local elected officials has become even more important in recent years as Local 391 organized classified school workers throughout Guilford County. Working with then-Councilwoman Johnson, Local 391 was able to improve working conditions for these new members.

When it came time to help Johnson get elected as Mayor, Local 391 members knew that it was time to step up to the plate and assist their long-time friend. JoCarolyn Wilkins, who represents school district employees for Local 391, led a team of rank-and-file members who knocked on doors, operated phone banks and distributed literature to make sure that their fellow Greensboro citizens knew about Johnson’s strong record of support for the union.
Durham City Councilwoman Helps Teamster Laidlaw Members Get More Pay

Local 391 Honors Diane Catotti With 'Friend of Working Families' Award

The city of Durham has a proud history of progressive politics that help working families. As a result, Durham passed a living wage ordinance almost a decade ago. This law states that the city must pay their employees decent wages that are above the pitiful federal wage standards.

Unfortunately, there was a loophole and city contractors did not have to abide by the law.

Teamster Contacts Help Members

Teamsters at the Durham County Access transportation service fell into this loophole. Local 391 represents about 30 drivers who provide transit services for the needy and disabled. Though the service is provided and funded by the local government, the work is actually subcontracted to Laidlaw Transit Services who employs the Teamster members. Fortunately, Local 391 has built strong political relationships with the Durham Mayor and City Council. Council member Diane Cattoti took up the Laidlaw Teamsters cause and spearheaded legislation to close the loophole.

Overwhelming Support

The law passed the City Council with overwhelming support and these drivers are now subject to the living wage ordinance. Those extra dollars go a long way in helping support working families.

“We asked Laidlaw to do the right thing and follow the spirit of the law,” said Councilwoman Catotti. “They refused and said we’d have to change the law, so that’s exactly what we did.”

“Councilwoman Catotti is a prime example of the kind of representative we want to help elect at all levels of government,” said Chip Roth, Local 391 Business Agent. “She always has an open door to us, hears our concerns and helps us solve problems for our members.

Local 391's Annual Award

As a result of Cattoti’s leadership, she has been honored with the 2007 Friends of Working Families Award. Local 391 gives this honor each year to a North Carolina elected official who best represents the members’ interests.

“It’s always great to be recognized for work that you believe in,” added Catotti. “My goal is always to make sure that people who work for the city of Durham receive fair wages that can support their families.”
Local 391 Campaign Results in Record Numbers of Political Contributions

Strong Political Action Takes Hard Work & DRIVE

It is clear that corporate bosses have more money to spend on political contributions than the average rank-and-file Teamster. Their money is used to directly influence much of the legislation that fattens shareholders wallets while putting the squeeze on working families.

Thankfully, the union can fight back through the collective power of its members. The Teamsters political action committee DRIVE (Democrat, Republican, Independent Voter Education) pools smaller contributions from each member to make sure that our voices are heard in the political process.

Thanks to the hard work of Local 391 members, our union is among the nationwide leaders in DRIVE funding.

DRIVE - Democrat, Republican, Independent Voter Education

Business Agent Wayne Gibbs recently wrapped up a DRIVE membership campaign at Gilbarco and BE Aerospace. Members were given information on the campaign and had the chance to pledge their own voluntary contributions. As a result, Local 391 will bring in $38,000 new DRIVE contributions for the next election cycle. That’s an increase of 20 percent!

“For only $2 a week, each member can do his or her part to make sure that politicians listen to us,” said Gibbs. “The campaigns at Gilbarco and BE Aerospace went so well, we’re going to replicate them at other Teamster facilities and barns.”

“I am so proud of the number of Local 391 members who participate in DRIVE,” said Jack Cipriani, Local 391 President. “Put quite simply – the more money we raise – the more power we have.”

For more information on how you can become a DRIVE contributor, please see a Shop Steward or call the Local 391 office.